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REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD COMMISSION, 1938

LETTER MAR 18 1939
U. S. Department of Agriculture
FROM

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1938

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printed

MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION,
Washington, D. C., January 17, 1939.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: In accordance with the provisions of section 3 of the act of Congress approved February 18, 1929 (45 Stat. 1222; U. S. Code, Supp., ch. 7a), I present herewith report of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1938.

Respectfully,

H. A. WALLACE,
Secretary of Agriculture,
Chairman of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR 1938

Activities under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act during the period covered by this report were significant not so much by reason of extensive acreages of lands acquired by the Bureau of Biological Survey for national wildlife refuges as of the rather intensive buying program carried on for consolidating refuges already established. Land has been bought in 42 units, the purchases ranging in size from less than 1 acre to 138,987 acres, chiefly to round out previous purchases made either by the Biological Survey with funds

appropriated under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and with funds made available from emergency appropriations, or purchases by the Resettlement Administration for the Bureau.

All of the projects for which lands were bought during the year affected refuges previously acquired with the regular, emergency, and Resettlement funds referred to, or already established by Executive order from the public domains. In addition, seven new refuges were established by reservation of the public domain by Executive orders.

ACQUISITION IN OTHER YEARS

As in its previous annual reports, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission considers it appropriate again to review the accomplishments in establishing national wildlife refuges under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and other acts having the same objective. The total acreage of all refuge lands acquired and being acquired on June 30, 1938, in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, by Executive order and purchase aggregate 11,299,186 acres in 172 units. Some of the refuges so established were for reclamation purposes, but these few are of relatively small importance both from the standpoint of utility and from the standpoint of the acres embraced. No additions were made by purchase to any of the big-game refuges established by Executive order, principally in the Western States, with the exception of the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge in southeastern Oregon, the Charles Sheldon Refuge in southwestern Nevada, the Elk Refuge in the Jackson Hole section of Wyoming, and the Federal Niobrara Reservation in north central Nebraska. In these four, however, extensive tracts of privately owned lands have been bought. Those in the Hart Mountain and Charles Sheldon Refuges were for the purpose of acquiring water holes and streams, so as to bring these refuges to their greatest possible utility. Purchases in the Elk Refuge were made principally to obtain an adequate food supply for the animals being protected during the winter months when they are in great concentrations in Jackson Hole. At Niobrara, a small area was acquired to consolidate the land already held.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

The appropriations authorized under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of February 18, 1929, for acquisition of lands, and the funds appropriated for the fiscal years 1930-38 are shown in table 1. The difference between the totals shows an unappropriated authorization of \$5,500,454 through the fiscal year 1938.

TABLE 1.—*Funds authorized and appropriated for migratory-bird refuges under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, fiscal years 1930-38*

Fiscal year	Authorized	Appropriated	Fiscal year	Authorized	Appropriated
1930-----	\$75,000	\$75,000	1936-----	\$1,000,000	\$67,500
1931-----	200,000	200,000	1937-----	1,000,000	79,753
1932-----	600,000	400,000	1938-----	1,000,000	79,753
1933-----	1,000,000	318,000	Total -----	6,875,000	1,374,546
1934-----	1,000,000	89,525			
1935-----	1,090,000	65,015			

As in the fiscal year 1937, no emergency funds were made available for the acquisition of refuge lands in 1938. There was allocated, however, for the purchase of tracts on existing refuges, a sum of \$75,000 from the proceeds of sales of migratory-bird hunting stamps. Part of the funds remaining in the \$6,000,000 appropriation provided under Title VII of the act of June 15, 1935, was also available for rounding out existing refuges. As previously also, the termination of cases as the result of judicial proceedings released funds that had been deposited in the courts during earlier years.

SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE PROGRAM

In tables 2 and 3 are set forth in detail the accomplishments in the acquisition of national wildlife refuges under the provisions (table 2) of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and (table 3) through the allotments of emergency funds. To present a broader picture of the present status of the refuge system a summary is appended following table 3 that covers not only the lands acquired after approval by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission but also those acquired by purchase, condemnation, or gift (but not by easement) since the Biological Survey first had funds for the purpose. The summary thus covers areas on refuges specifically established by act of Congress, for example, the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge and the Bear River (Utah) Migratory Bird Refuge. The discrepancy in acreage figures between the summary and tables 2 and 3 is explained by the fact that data in the tables are for the period since 1929, the year the Migratory Bird Conservation Act was approved, whereas the summary goes back to the beginning of refuge land purchases by the Biological Survey, and the reservation of public lands for the purpose by Executive order.

Present status of refuge system

Area approved for purchase by Commission to June 30, 1933	acres--	139, 608
Average cost per acre-----	dollars--	4. 57
Area approved for purchase by Commission July 1, 1933 to date	acres--	725, 172
Average cost per acre-----	dollars--	5. 32
Area approved for purchase by the Federal Emergency Relief Admin- istration and the Resettlement Administration (Farm Security Administration)-----	acres--	733, 799
Average cost per acre-----	dollars--	7. 66
Area approved for purchase under all other funds-----	acres--	191, 660
Average cost per acre-----	dollars--	8. 00
Area acquired under Executive orders to June 30, 1933-----	acres--	5, 467, 565
Area acquired under Executive orders, July 1, 1933, to date-----	do-----	4, 041, 381
Refuges existing prior to June 30, 1933-----	number--	102
Refuges existing on June 30, 1938 ¹ -----	do-----	167
Total area of all refuges ¹ -----	acres--	11, 299, 186

¹ Exclusive of easement refuges in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana.

TABLE 2.—*Lands for refuges acquired and in process of acquisition under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act program through June 30, 1938*

State and county	Refuge	Fiscal year 1938				Acquired in previous years beginning Feb. 18, 1929	
		Acquired by purchase	Pending title conveyance	Total	Acquired other than by purchase		By purchase
		Acre ^s	Acre ^s	Acre ^s	Acre ^s	Acre ^s	Acre ^s
Alaska: Fourth Judicial Division.	Hazen Bay						
Arizona:	Apache						
	Boulder Canyon (see also Nevada)						
	White River						
Kansas: Arkansas, Desha, Monroe, and Phillips.		529	529	529		529	312,047 719
California:	Imperial						
	Modoc and Siskiyou						
Delaware:	Tule Lake						
Kent:							
New Castle:	Bonbay Hook						
	Killhook (see also New Jersey)						
Florida:	Cedar Keys						
	Chiiseut Hill						
	St. Marks	2,879	6,918	9,797	1,9,077	18,874	1,379 2,033
Georgia:	Okefenokee						
	Savannah River (see also South Carolina).						
	Typee						
	Wolf Island						
Idaho:	McIntosh						
Jefferson:	Canas						
Canyon	Deer Flat						
	Middleito						
	Blaine, Cassia, Minidoka, and Power						
Bannock	Bannock						
	Canyon						
Iowa: Kossuth							
Louisiana:	Plaquemines						
	Cameron						
Maine:	Washington						
Knox	Widows Island						

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¹ Set aside by Executive order or proclamation.
² Gift.

TABLE 2.—*Lands for refuges acquired and in process of acquisition under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act program through June 30, 1938—Continued*

State and county	Refuge	Fiscal year 1938				Acquired in previous years beginning Feb. 18, 1929
		Acquired by purchase	Pending title conveyance	Total	Acquired other than by purchase	
		Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
North Dakota:						
Foster and Stutsman	Arrowwood	2	2	2	2	40
Burke and Ward	Dos Lagos	11	11	11	11	1,170
Grand Forks	Kelly's Slough					1,199
Ramsey	Lake Alice					1,121
Burleigh and Kidder	Long Lake					3,994
Burke and Mountrail	Lostwood	5,618	1,441	7,059	7,059	1,120
Bettineau and McHenry	Lower Souris					921
Benson	Sullys Hill ⁴	317	708	1,025	1,025	1,19,453
Renville and Ward	Upper Souris					1,61,480
Oklahoma:	Salt Plains					
Comanche	Wichita Mountains ⁴					
Oregon:	Charles Sheldon ⁴ (see also Nevada)	627	627	627	627	627
Lake	Goat Island					
Curry	Hart Mountain ⁴	1,811	2,121	4,232	4,232	30,113
Lake	Malheur (Blitzen unit)					1,181,971
Harney	Malheur (Malheur unit)					1,005
Do	Wilamette					
Marion	Cape Romain	3	617	3	3	22,448
South Carolina:	Savannah River					
Charleston	Lake Andes					
Jasper	Charles Mix					
South Dakota:	Brown					
Day	Sand Lake					
Texas:	Wainbey					
Aransas		46,597	903	46,500	46,500	2,155
Bailey		1,417	738	2,155		
Utah:	Muleshoe					
Box Elder	Bear River	2	39	41	41	1,03
Do	Locomotive Springs					

Virginia: Princess Anne		3,926	663	4,589	14,342	8,931
Washington:						
San Juan						
Grant						
San Juan						
Spokane		1,925	4,866	6,731	6,791	3,412
Pacific		40	600	700	700	1,605
Wisconsin: Brown						
Wyoming:						
Albany						
Telon		1,657	641	2,198	1,618	965
Albany						
Total		132,206	110,389	242,595	68,535	311,130
						620,158
						5,007,708

¹ Set aside by Executive order or proclamation.² Gift.³ Act of Congress.⁴ Primarily for big game.

Note.—Discrepancies in entries and totals in this table and in similar tables reported by the Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, for the same year, are explained by the recent receipt of more complete data on acreage.

TABLE 3.—*Lands for refugees acquired and in process of acquisition with emergency funds*

Bottineau and McHenry		803	2,144	2,947	36,504
Surry					²
Do	Storm Lake				80
Towankan		809	400	1,218	28,318
Upper Sounds					
Malheur (Millizon unit)					64,717
Malheur (Malheur unit)		141		141	6,193
Do					
Charleston	Cape Romanin				5,196
Jasper	Savannah River (see also Georgia)				3,519
South Dakota	Lagrook				
Bennett	Lake Andes				9,302
Charles Mix	Sand Lake				3,312
Brown	Watbey				19,077
Day	Lake Ison				2,013
Tennessee; Lake and Obion	Muleshoe				20
Texas; Buley	Bear River				
Utah; Box Elder	Trumpealeau				
Wisconsin; Trempealeau	Total	194,020	47,958	241,978	580,506

Note.—Discrepancies in entries and totals in this table and in similar tables reported by the Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, for the same year, are explained by the recent receipt of more complete data on acreage.





